Dublin, December 3. 1864

My dear Mr Mary

I don't know how long it is since
write to you - but it seems to be a
very long time. On the latter days of
September I left my home at Greenfield
where I have resided for the last 5 or 6 years
and removed to 137, Lemster Road, North-
(and suburb of Dublin about 2 English
miles from Fred Burnside that I might
have a little more plan of labouring. His two
children also reside in the house in Fred Burnside
Road - two daughters in with me at
Lemster Road. I left Greenfield Villa in
the charge of a
respectable woman who lives in the house
with her family. They are
neighbours & friends
of mine & will look after the house when
I am away. I am very comfortably
now settled down & have much to enjoy of
comfortable things and to make
myself very busy. Probably during the
new Parliament I should spend a
part of my time in London with my daughters
letting furnished lodgings. Indeed I am not altogether

settled yet – for we have a professional furniture
polisher rubbing up the chairs, tables, &c. that
we brought here in the year 1892 when I
was married, and we escaped to the beauty
of the old mahogany that has had the
experience of a lovely household with a number
of romping children to knock them about
& batter them. How wonderful Time brightens
& mellows them look – indeed in with an Eve –
should they on of the other sex have banished
from the scene. The other is old & very
grey headed. My mind is pretty
equally divided between such thoughts as
these & reflections on your affairs which are
of such vast importance to me & to the
whole future prospects of mankind – if they
only knew it, which indeed they don't.
I am constantly filled with amazement
at what seems to me the ignorance & narrow
help of view of the great majority of those
I meet whereas the American Civil War &
its bearings upon the Mexican question.
Whilst the Ambassador lived, although
in my secret soul I knew it was an extremely
feeble instrumentality I had at least the
comfort of feeling that I was like a fly on
the chariot wheel – but since it died I
feel that I "really am in fact an independent
person & mere spectator & that I can

rely both on head & heart; & feel,
& trust & feel with us in our
fellow each other in Robert Burns'
& heed not long have fled & in that the
election has shown such a storm
of hatred & enmity among the
best portions of the Northern States &
pressed fully, there seems of the Democratic
party can make use of such elements as
that they hope thereby to overthrow & overturn
Constitutional Liberty. & how many
Men have been misled by that Catholic
party believing that they could in their
whole strength to England & Ireland
subservient to their priests & their chief
executive directors. Witness their hatred to
the Italian cause & their sympathy for the
King of Naples. When Garibaldi would be
in danger of his life from an Irish mob
if he happened to show or there
identity was recognized. Witness the
Draft Riots & Atrocities during the New York mob
in 1862. & how they controlled on that late
election with them & what an evil element
they are in our political system. Whenever
I see a crowd of emigrants on their way
to our shores I am glad on their behalf &
sorry from. their mistaken notions &
almost fear to enforce but they like the Negro

to you until the past generation passed away & the second generation merged into the native population with less religious fanaticism & more enlightened American citizens. Used as I am to the Catholic poor, born and living among them all my life I am continually offended at their dirt, ignorance & fanaticism: they are astonishingly ~~by~~ ~~the~~ exact; impudent, dishonest people & the three unfortunate elements are aggravated by the persistent & successful efforts of the priests to keep them from the entrance of new & wider ideas which would be the inevitable result of their existing education. ~~But~~ But it is my belief that nowhere do they stand to more advantage than at home & at home I consider them a more humane, charitable, virtuous, & cultured people mentally than the corresponding classes in England. I think it will be found that for one murder which takes place in Ireland at least 10 are committed by the corresponding classes in England. Fewer than probably some now think ~~will~~ would be the result. & it will be found by far less interest for you.

I read Wendell Phillips speech at the Cooper Institute with great interest & with undiminished respect for

MS. B. L.6 v.15. p.114

Liberated with the Standard, which is I suppose in other words an admission that the printed paper is about to cease to exist. I am sorry that the Liberator should perish for want of support - but I suppose the Standard will be able to do the work that remains to be done by a determinately abolition paper. I should have told you when I wrote last that Mrs Sutton requested me to say that any money you may have received for Rebecca which may be handed over to the Liberator Fund in the Hands of our friend with them to mind the means - but then would be best as far as the money is here & I have no right to any share in the credit, with you the more entire was her difference of opinion on the Prudential question cannot any arrangement between Phillips & Garrison - or Phillips & Quincy. I would be sorry that it should - for surely there is no honester men to be found. We are also how are Jane & Grace Wyman & daughter. Somehow I feel as if they were more than ordinary acquaintances. If any thing happened to any of your family I would feel as if I had lost a relation.

My parents and friends have placed me in a rather peculiarly isolated position — so that I really think if I went to Boston I could not make more helpful acquaintances than I could probably form perhaps than I know of in Dublin.

Do you think it likely that Lowes Thompson is making way in his new business enterprise? — It rarely happens here that a man of his time of life succeeds in a new business undertaking & I fear his character is not improved by the century & which he is now engaged.

Have you the Westons & have you seen any of them lately. They never write to me now. I left off last my letters should be felt as a bore such I would take this. What is Hamilton doing? — and D. Douglas. Have any news I heard from W. W. Brown. or Hopkins Watts

With kind regards to the Misses Smith
I remain Yours affectionately

Richd Dowden

by the speaker. Do you not think it probable that a spectacle remote from the scene of political conflict & party passions may be a more impartial judge of motives than those who are engaged in the fray? I wrote to Richard Pollard very lately that whether I could see the true & wisest of Phillips doctrines to prevent secession I adhered to the opinion I have held for years that when there were strong hopes of constitutional improvement than any we had yet known I would certainly vote for him if I had a vote — an account of the universal uncertainty & perplexity & the risk of tying a new rein when the country was in the throes of such a struggle. The solution people must be chiefly guided by what is expedient & the statesman must endorse much of which he does not entirely approve. I thought the remarks of Henry Ward Beecher & W. Phillips in recent speeches were admirable. For my own part I think Lincoln an extraordinary man with many great & noble qualities which fit him eminently for his present position & I am pleased that he has been reelected.

The last news that reached us since the election was a threat that the President was about to open correspondence with the Rebels for a peaceful solution of the contest. Short of a total surrender that I am willing to do whatever can be done in the way of a peaceful settlement, and that they will submit to such an arrangement as this people may think just. — To your question as to the details of a plan of a character I have not thought of. I have abandoned from early the standard set forth that I had proposed to stand on when I began to form an opinion — because I felt that should it prove to be wrong it would probably from that circumstance be taken by the time it had crossed the Atlantic

I was much surprised recently by seeing in the Standard a denial of the report which appeared in a former one I sent under the head of Spanish Affairs that Gen Prim had been murdered in Madrid. In the same paper was also a denial of the intended assassination of the

MS. D. L.C. v.15, p. 114